



**U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services**

**ALLEN J. BRANDS PHS CLINICAL PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR
AWARD COVER SHEET (please print or type)**

CANDIDATE'S

GRADE/RANK/NAME: CDR-05 Christine Chamberlain
POSITION TITLE: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
WORK ADDRESS: NIH Clinical Center Pharmacy
Building #10, RM 1N-257 MSC-1196
10 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-1196

PROPOSED CITATION: For her outstanding efforts in providing patient care clinical pharmacy services to solid organ transplant patients.

RECOMMENDED BY: Robert DeChristoforo, CAPT USPHS (Ret.), Deputy Chief, NIH Clinical Center Pharmacy

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NAME OF CANDIDATE'S

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Robert DeChristoforo, CAPT USPHS (Ret)

SIGNATURE OF IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR:

Robert DeChristoforo 1/30/06

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL):

**Narrative: Allen J. Brands PHS Clinical Pharmacist of the Year Award
CDR Christine Chamberlain PHS#56138**

It is my pleasure to nominate CDR Christine Chamberlain for the Allen J. Brands PHS Clinical Pharmacist of the Year Award. NIH recently entered into an unprecedented agreement with the National Naval Medical Center and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to conduct Phase I and II collaborative research studies in the fields of renal, pancreatic, and islet cell transplantation at the NIH Clinical Center. CDR Chamberlain was recruited from our staff for this new, highly visible position. She is responsible for reviewing protocols for pharmacy-related issues, for detecting adverse drug reactions to investigational drugs, monitoring drug therapy of highly toxic immunosuppressants, and preventing dangerous drug interactions. She also counsels patients as to the proper use of their medication. Although this general medication counseling duty is performed by many pharmacists, failure to do so properly in this population can be fatal because of the inherent toxicity of the drugs as well as the potential to develop rejection.

CDR Chamberlain has had no formal transplantation training and took on the daunting task of assuming this new position. She has lived up to all our expectations. One of the transplant surgeons, a colonel at Walter Reed Army Medical Center took the time to send the Pharmacy Department a letter of commendation supporting CDR Chamberlain for a PHS honor award. Surgeons and residents provided to cover this service are uniformed personnel from Walter Reed and the National Naval Medical Center. CDR Chamberlain fits in especially well with this group and represents the PHS in an outstanding manner.

CDR Chamberlain is also quick to volunteer for additional duties. She has been responsible for planning and executing two highly successful continuing educational seminars sponsored by the NIH Clinical Center (CC) Pharmacy two out of the last three years. These accredited continuing education programs, initiated in 1995 and entitled Pharmacotherapy Frontiers, were designed to deliver cutting edge pharmacotherapy information to practicing pharmacists. Many federal pharmacists attend this program.

CDR Chamberlain has also assumed other leadership roles. A new Alaris (patient) infusion pump was introduced into the NIH Clinical Center (CC) late summer of 2003 prior to the Joint Commission on Accreditation Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) survey. Major hurdles faced the introduction of this new pump. In order to utilize the guardrail safety feature of the pump, drug "libraries" needed to be created for the high alert, critical drugs administered by infusion in the CC. CDR Chamberlain chaired the implementation committee was the driving force behind the successful development of the drug library database. She reviewed the CC Drug formulary and selected the high alert drugs. She coordinated and worked with other healthcare professionals to divide the drugs into drug libraries

and coordinated the approvals of the guardrails for each individual patient population, including her own solid organ transplant group. She then presented the program, including the library and guardrail details to the CC Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. The pumps were introduced into clinical use with few or no glitches. The JCAHO survey rated the CC with a score of 99; one of the highest marks ever given out by this independent accrediting organization. The introduction of the smart pumps contributed to this outstanding score.

In January of 2005 CDR Chamberlain accepted an appointment to the Institutional Review Board of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Her knowledge of neuropharmacology gained from her many years of work experience at St. Elizabeth's in DC as well as her board certification in pharmacotherapy made her an excellent candidate for the this IRB. She is thoroughly familiar with the research process and the handling of investigational drugs.

Her recognition nationally is evidenced by her initial and repeat invitations to speak at The American Society of Transplantation regional meetings in June of 2005 and 2006. She presents "Common Immunosuppressive Regimens and Drug Interactions." She is the only pharmacist among 10 physician speakers. She is also one of only four CC pharmacists who are currently principal investigators. Her study is entitled "Pharmacokinetics of Valganciclovir in Kidney and Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Recipients."

CDR Chamberlain is an exemplary officer and pharmacist. She completed an APhA Community Pharmacy IHS Residency, a staff tour of duty in the IHS and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in DC, and now is assigned to the NIH Clinical Center. She earned her non-traditional PharmD while still working full time at St. Elizabeth's and then passed her Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties exam and is one of a select group of PHS pharmacists who are board certified in pharmacotherapy. CDR Chamberlain is fully qualified to be considered for this prestigious award. I nominate her without reservation.